

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are canceled.

Claims 31-56 are added.

Claims 31-56 are pending.

I. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Per the telephone conversation with the Examiner Mais on August 29, 2003, the relevant documents listed in the Office Action dated August 14, 2003 by the Examiner are filed with this response. Therefore, the objection to the IDS is traversed by the filing of the omitted documents.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 17 is rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 112* for an antecedent basis problem. Claims 1-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejection of this claim has been rendered moot.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 12-15, 17, 22-23, 26-29 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 102(e)*. Claims 1-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejections of these claims have been rendered moot.

IV. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, 11, 16, 18-21, and 24-25 are rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 103(a)*. Claims 1-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejections of these claims have been rendered moot.

V. CONCLUSION

Claims 1-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 31-56 have been added.

The Applicant has added new Claims 31-56 to more clearly define the present invention.

The Applicants, therefore, respectfully assert that new Claims 31-56 are in condition for allowance and request an early allowance of these claims.

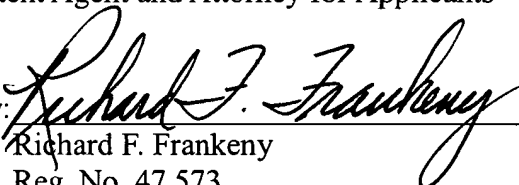
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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